

August 20, 1998

Letter to the Editor:

Recognizing the concern most South Carolinians have for education, I wanted to share the results of a national poll of women's views on the federal government's role in education recently released by the American Association of University Women.

This poll shows that a vast majority of women across political party lines believes the federal government should play a strong national role in education.

While Congress is trying to block-grant funds for a large number of elementary and secondary education programs, the AAUW poll shows that women want public money to support **only** public schools. Congress is threatening to reduce the role of the federal government in public education, yet women want just the opposite - 68% of women polled think the federal government is not spending enough on education.

Of the 600 registered women voters surveyed across the country by Lake, Snell, Perry and Associates for AAUW, women were clear about their priorities for schools:

- National programs to make schools safe ;
- National standards for teachers to ensure a quality education for our children;
- National standards to make sure children learn the basics, and
- Federal programs to give boys and girls the same opportunities in school.

There is a lot at stake for women and children in the 1998 elections. Don't overlook **the power of one vote** - yours and mine.

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